

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11358 261748Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20  
SY-05 MCT-02 A-01 OPR-02 /085 W  
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R 261045Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3001

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 11358

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT IN  
SUBJECT: POLICE ACTION IN MANIPUR

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY DACCA MADRAS  
AND RANGOON DATED JULY 25, 1978 FROM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IS  
REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE  
CALCUTTA 1324

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT IN  
SUBJECT: POLICE ACTION IN MANIPUR

1. IN THE PAST WEEK THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INCIDENTS  
INVOLVING VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR, INCLUDING THE DAYLIGHT  
SHOOTING OF TWO POLICEMEN, A BANK ROBBERY, AND THE  
KILLING OF TWO MANIPUR RIFLEMEN (LOCAL MILITITA). THERE  
HAVE BEEN ARRESTS AND THERE IS AN EXTENSIVE POLICE DRAGNET  
UNDERWAY SEEKING SUSPECTS. GOVERNOR L.P. SINGH, WHO IS  
BASED IN SHILLONG IN MEGHALAYA, HAS DECLARED THE VALLEY OF  
MANIPUR AND THE STATE CAPITAL OF IMPHAL A "DISTURBED  
AREA, UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE ARMED FORCES (ASSAM AND  
MANIPUR) SPECIAL POWER ACT OF 1958.

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2. THE OFTEN SENSATIONALIST CALCUTTA EVENING PAPER HINDUSTAN  
STANDARD OF JULY 24 HAD BOLD FRONT PAGE HEADLINES  
"ARMY CALLED OUT IN MANIPUR VALLEY" OVER A STORY  
DATELINED IMPHAL, BUT WITH NO PARTICULAR ATTRIBUTION.  
PRESUMABLY THIS STORY RECEIVED CIRCULATION ELSEWHERE  
(INCLUDING ON THE VOA NEWS AT 0100 GMT JULY 25),

CAUSING B. LAL, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE  
IN MANIPUR CATEGORICALLY TO DENY THAT THE ARMY  
HAD BEEN CALLED OUT, ALTHOUGH UNDER THE ACT IN QUESTION  
IT COULD BE IF THE SITUATION WARRANTED. THE "COMBING"  
OPERATION IS BEING CONDUCTED ONLY BY THE POLICE AND  
THE PARA-MILITARY MANIPUR RIFLES. GOVERNOR SINGH  
IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN IMPHAL ON JULY 26 ON A VISIT WHICH  
THE IGP CLAIMED HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED AND  
WAS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE CURRENT LAW AND ORDER SITUATION  
IN MANIPUR. THIS IS, HOWEVER, THE FIRST TIME THE 1958  
ACT HAS EVER BEEN INVOKED FOR MANIPUR,

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS PART OF THE MYSTIQUE OF THE  
NORTHEAST TO ASCRIBE ANY LAW AND ORDER PROBLEMS TO  
POLITICALLY MOTIVATED TRIBAL UNDERGROUNDS, BY ANALOGY  
TO THE CASES OF NAGALAND AND MIZORAM, WHICH BORDER  
NORMALLY CLAIM MANIPUR. OF MANIPUR'S SOMEWHAT OVER ONE  
MILLION PEOPLE, ONLY A THIRD ARE TRIBAL, AND TWO-THIRDS  
ARE HINDU, WITH PERHAPS 300,000 CHRISTIANS. UNTIL WE  
HAVE FURTHER EVIDENCE, IT MIGHT BE SAFER TO RESERVE  
JUDGEMENT ON THE TRIBAL ANGLE, AND TO ASSUME THAT  
IT IS FOR NOW AT LEAST A MATTER OF SIMPLE  
BRIGANDRY. THERE ARE SOME NAGAS IN MANIPUR (WHOSE  
CHIEF MINISTER IS A NAGA), AND THERE HAVE BEEN THE  
USUAL RECURRING REPORTS OF UNDERGROUND NAGAS, AS  
USUAL WELL AS MIZOS, ACROSS THE BURMESE BORDER;  
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HOWEVER, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT BOTH GROUPS ARE  
RELATIVELY QUIESCENT AT THIS TIME, AND THERE IS NO  
SPECIAL REASON TO EXPECT SUCH ACTIVITY IN MANIPUR.  
SIGNED PERKINS.  
UNQUOTE  
GOHEEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, CIVIL DISORDERS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** POLICE ACTION IN MANIPUR FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY DACCA MADRAS AND RANGOON DATED JULY 25, 1978 FROM AMCONSUL CALC  
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